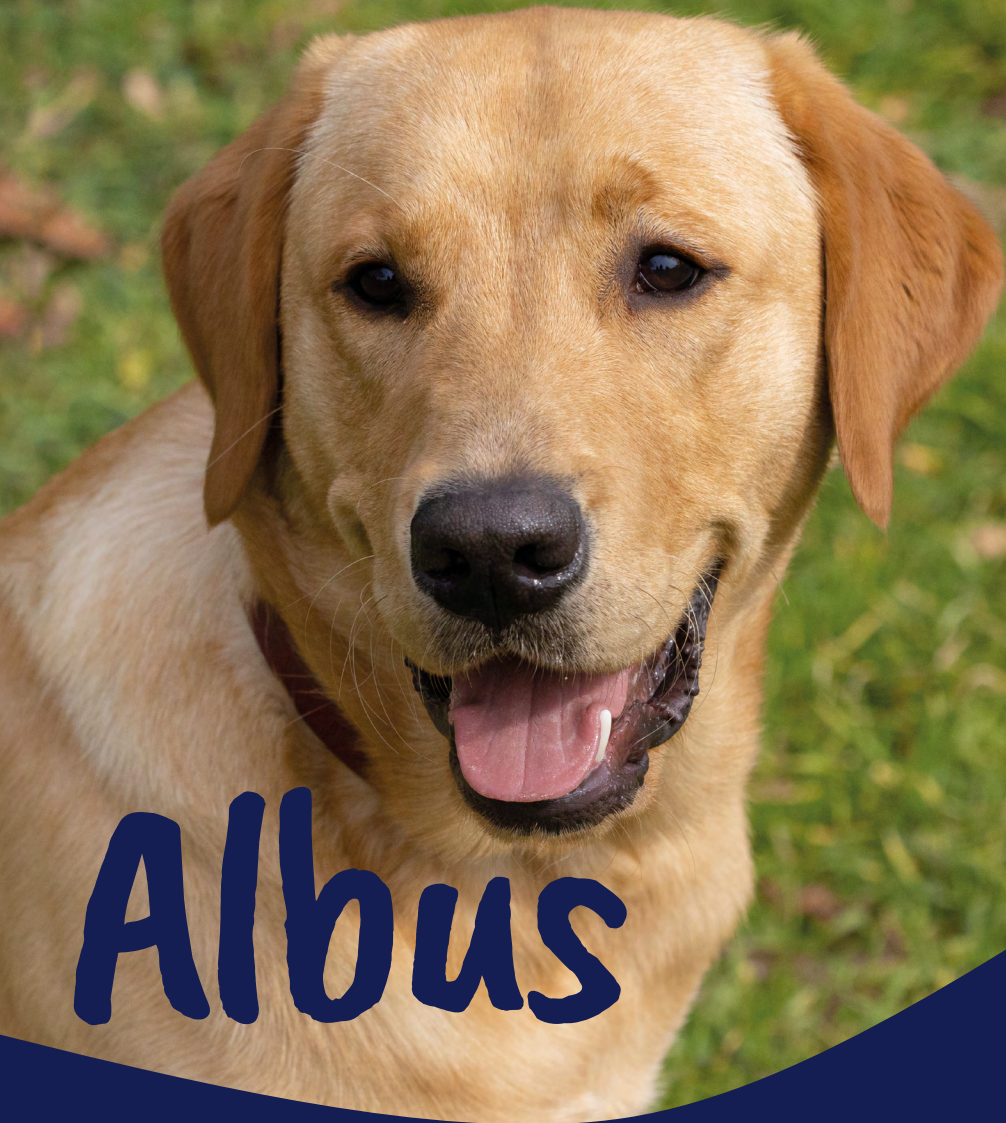




Sponsor
a Puppy



Albus

Albus is
growing up!

Pupdate 2

Welcome to your June Pupdate

I hope you're enjoying these warmer and sunnier months.

Thank you so much for supporting Guide Dogs by sponsoring a puppy. Did you know that in 2022 nearly 100,000 people were told they were losing their sight? This kind of news can have a huge impact, both practically and emotionally. Thanks to puppy sponsorship from our generous supporters, we're able to be there every step of the way for those who need us, delivering life-changing services, advice and support when it's needed most.

At Guide Dogs, we believe people with sight loss should live actively, independently, and well – however they choose. We're dedicated to educating, campaigning, and of course training incredible dogs like your sponsored pup. None of this would be possible without people like you; by sponsoring a puppy, you're helping to transform the lives of both adults and children with visual impairments. Thank you.

I'm pleased to share your sponsored puppy's latest Pupdate with you and I hope you enjoy reading it.

Yours sincerely,

Steph

Steph Potter

Puppy Sponsorship Manager



Thank you

for sponsoring Albus



“

**Hello, it's
Pat here,
Albus' Puppy
Raiser!**

”

Since your last Pupdate, Albus has grown up so much. He's a lot calmer and taller, in fact when people meet him they think he's an adult! He's pretty quick to learn new skills and always eager to please. I love his confidence, he doesn't hold back. He's a very affectionate, loving puppy; always happy and playful. Albus is great with young children and his cuddles are so sweet. He loves to lie on the floor beside you with his whole body stretched out.

His favourite toys are Kongs, which can be stuffed with food and he'll entertain himself for ages trying to get it all out. He also loves to find the treats hidden between the strips of his snuffle mat, he's so satisfied sniffing here and there.

One of Albus' quirks is watching dogs on TV, he stands still and stares at them for ages!

New skills

Albus knows his routine, he settles himself well and he sleeps separately to our pet dog Suzi. It's important he learns to spend a short amount of time by himself in case a future owner needs to go to an appointment alone.

Every other week he goes to puppy classes, where he's learning all the basic cues: 'sit', 'down', 'stay', 'wait', 'touch'. He's also working on his recall and he's a little star at this!

Albus travels well on trains and buses, and he's very good at settling whilst travelling. He walks nicely on a loose-lead and we're working on wearing the TTouch harness. This harness allows multiple points of contact with his body, helping him get used to the sensation, so that he's more comfortable when he starts wearing his harness at training school. At first he was a little unsure, so we helped him by leaving the harness around the house so he could sniff it, and I've used his favourite treats to help him build a positive association with it. Once he was comfortable, we popped it on and he was happy. Now he sits when we put the TTouch harness on, and of course he'll always be rewarded with a bit of kibble!

I also use treats to help overcome distractions and keep Albus' focus on me. Sometimes when it's windy, he needs a little help to stay focused, so I always have his treats to hand.



Learn more about Albus' new experiences by scanning the QR code with your smartphone or going to:

[guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-albus](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/puppy-albus)



Scan me

New people and places

Albus and I have been experiencing new things together: we've visited the train station, travelled on a bus and have even been on long train journeys! He's very happy, taking everything in his stride!

I bring him along to my Pilates lessons too, and he's become popular there! Albus also accompanies me to schools when we do talks for Guide Dogs, and he loves all the attention he gets. On a recent holiday, he joined me in restaurants, pubs, concerts and museums - he loved exploring all the new sights and smells!

Looking forward

Albus has been a pleasure to train and have in the house. I'll miss everything about him so much when he leaves me to go to training school. Especially his cuddles! But I'm loving raising him, so I'll definitely raise another young life changer!

Thank you for sponsoring Albus. Look out for your next Pupdate in October!



Where is Albus on his Pupdate journey?



1

2

3

4

5

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What is PREP?

Puppy Raising for Excellent Partnerships (PREP) is our bespoke puppy-raising programme that guide dog pups follow while living with their puppy raisers. PREP was designed in consultation with volunteers, staff, training behaviour consultants and canine research staff. It's based on Positive Reinforcement Training (PRT) which focuses on rewarding good behaviour and creating positive associations with new experiences. PREP treats each pup as an individual and helps to support their physical, behavioural, and emotional development.



/SponsorAPuppy



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